



REVISED 2011 STORM WATER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS MANUAL

BACKGROUND

After a multi-year public and internal process, on Feb. 2, 2011, the revised Storm Water Design and Construction Specifications Manual (Manual) was approved. Originally developed 15 years ago, the Manual is a set of regulations of engineering design and construction standards for proper storm water management for those contemplating development or other land alteration within the City of Indianapolis. In 2001, the Manual was revised to provide a tool for compliance with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permit, including water-quality requirements. The Manual allows for consistent plan review and provides for quality installation and functionality of storm water infrastructure. The process used in the update and revision of the Manual included input from both internal and external stakeholder groups that use the Manual. The updated Manual goes into effect on June 1, 2011.

PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL

The Manual provides regulations covering engineering design and construction standards for proper storm water management for those engineers, builders, contractors, land planners and property owners contemplating some form of land alteration within the City of Indianapolis. The following are included in the Manual: departmental policies relating to storm water management, flood control and storm water runoff quality; submittal requirements and procedures for issuance of a storm water permit; and procedures for inspection, testing and final acceptance of storm water facilities. The Manual also:

- Provides consistency in project evaluation and design



Detention requirements have been revised under the new storm water standards.

- Consolidates current departmental standards and policies
- Provides a clear explanation of what is required for storm water management plan submittals and project reviews
- Ensures consistency in review of storm water permit applications and land-alteration plans by staff
- Improves the ability of contractors to properly and consistently install storm water facilities according to the approved storm water management plan
- Minimizes the impacts of new development and redevelopment on existing storm water infrastructure
- Clarifies state storm water, erosion- and sediment-control requirements within Marion County
- Clarifies how storm water structures must be designed, constructed and maintained

The revisions were necessary to guarantee the level of service expected by the community, while not adding unreasonable costs to development or excessive enforcement for City departments.

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Department of Public Works

Indianapolis

Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

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★ REVISIONS TO THE MANUAL

A number of revisions to the Manual are simple administrative changes and corrections of typographical errors. In addition, some technical standards were revised and/or added to formalize revisions that were previously approved by the Department or that have become necessary in order to comply with current state and federal regulations. There are four significant areas of revisions to the Manual, including:

- **Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Manual:**

Chapters 102.06 - The concept of an O&M manual that provides guidance for operating and maintaining required structural storm water quality best management practices (BMPs) was introduced in October 2001 with the adoption of Chapter 700 of the Manual. The revised standards require that the developer's site designer provide a single O&M manual for all storm water infrastructure that will be placed on a development site and that the O&M agreement be recorded with the property to ensure that future owners are aware of the existence of the manual and the maintenance requirements for the storm water facilities on that property.

- **Floatable Control:**

Chapter 104.02 - As required under the City's NPDES storm water permit, the City prohibits, to the maximum extent practicable, the discharge of certain floatable materials (floating debris) to waters of the State of Indiana. To comply, the City requires the control of all floatable materials from

the discharges from sites of new development and redevelopment. The new requirement mandates floatable control at the downstream-most runoff control point on the property.

- **Consistent Water Quality and Quantity Requirements:**

Chapters 104.02 and 201.06 - The previous version of these chapters required detention when the amount of imperviousness on the project site increases by one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acre. This number contradicted the current water quality standards in Chapter 700 of the Manual that require installation of storm water quality BMPs whenever more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acre of land is disturbed, without reference to the change in impervious surface. The new standard states that both detention and water quality controls are required if one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acre or more of land is disturbed. This change does not affect individual one- and two-family residential lots.

- **Detention Analysis Required on Future Development Sites:**

Chapter 201.06 - Detention of storm water runoff has been required since the original City of Indianapolis Drainage and Sediment Control Design Standards for Public Improvement were adopted on April 14, 1980. In the past, developers have been allowed a waiver. This option has been removed from the Manual, and all future developments will be required to perform a detention analysis

For more information, contact: Department of Public Works Engineering Division, (317) 327-2561.